

## Collocations & Set Phrases

**Examples:** noun + noun: **a round of talks**, not **a circle of talks**  
 adjective + noun: **strong coffee**, not **powerful coffee**  
 adverb + adjective: **bitterly disappointed**, not **sourly disappointed**  
 verb + noun: **raise a family**, not **make a family**  
 verb + adverb: **believe firmly**, not **believe tightly**

1. Study the collocations and set phrases below clustered into topic-related groups.

### ART & CULTURE

1. leave a **legacy**
2. be a **source of inspiration**
3. a city with **historic landmarks**
4. take pride in my **cultural heritage**
5. a **stark contrast** between
6. **blur the boundaries** between
7. **lay the foundations** of

### SPORTS

1. hold a **training session**
2. **hold/set/break** the world **record**
3. **cross the finishing line**
4. be **gasping for breath**
5. **sustain an injury**
6. take **performance-enhancing drugs**
7. a result **comes as a surprise**
8. be his/her **crowning achievement**

### ENTERTAINMENT

1. **have a blast/a whale of a time**
2. the party is **in full swing**
3. is **the life and soul** of the party
4. a play/group **attracts media attention**
5. have an **unquenchable thirst** for adventure
6. have an **insatiable desire/appetite** for life
7. give/get **an adrenalin rush**

### PERFORMANCE

1. be **in the limelight/under the spotlight**
2. have **an imposing stage presence**
3. suffer from **stage fright**
4. have **a dress rehearsal**
5. give/receive **a round of applause**
6. **bring the house down**
7. be **booed off the stage**
8. **meet with critical acclaim**

2. Match the two parts that contain collocations from the list above to make true statements about these famous people's lives.

#### Column A

1. Princess Diana
2. Maria Callas was a prima donna
3. Steve Fossett was a thrill-seeker
4. Duke Ellington was so shy
5. Luciano Pavarotti
6. Despite his antics, Alice Cooper
7. Alfred Hitchcock's movies
8. Marion Jones' doping scandal
9. Ronaldo's career took a downturn
10. Aristotle Onassis

#### Column B

- a. had an insatiable appetite for the good life
- b. had an imposing stage presence
- c. came as no surprise given her male-like body
- d. was never booed off the stage
- e. who could bring the house down
- f. after he sustained a knee injury in 1999
- g. who got an adrenalin rush from adventure
- h. he often experienced stage fright
- i. met with great critical acclaim
- j. was in the limelight everywhere she went

1. **Princess Diana was in the limelight everywhere she went.**
2. **Maria Callas was a prima donna who could bring the house down.**
3. **Steve Fossett was a thrill-seeker who got an adrenalin rush from adventure.**
4. **Duke Ellington was so shy he often experienced stage fright.**
5. **Luciano Pavarotti had an imposing stage presence.**
6. **Despite his antics, Alice Cooper was never booed off the stage.**
7. **Alfred Hitchcock's movies met with great critical acclaim.**
8. **Marion Jones' doping scandal came as no surprise given her male-like body.**
9. **Ronaldo's career took a downturn after he sustained a knee injury in 1999.**
10. **Aristotle Onassis had an insatiable appetite for the good life.**

3. Supply the prepositions that go together with these verbs and nouns.

1. ambivalent <b>about</b>	13. infuse <b>with</b>
2. apply <b>to</b>	14. imbue <b>with</b>
3. bet <b>on</b>	15. instill <b>in(to) /with</b>
4. compatible <b>with</b>	16. insist <b>on</b>
5. cut <b>back on</b>	17. link <b>to</b>
6. <b>on</b> display	18. parachute <b>off /from</b>
7. disqualify <b>from</b>	19. persist <b>in</b>
8. gamble <b>on</b>	20. range <b>from . . . to</b>
9. hail <b>as /from</b>	21. regardless <b>of</b>
10. idle <b>away</b>	22. straighten <b>out /up</b>
11. inculcate <b>with</b>	23. sort <b>out</b>
12. indebted <b>to</b>	24. <b>under</b> scrutiny

4. Complete the following sentences using verbs, nouns, or adjectives and the prepositions that go with them from the list above.

1. Albert Einstein was **hailed as** the greatest scientist of all times.
2. Turks **are indebted to** Kemal Ataturk for his contribution to the modernization of their country.
3. It is a coach's job to **straighten out** problems between team members.
4. It takes courage and guts to **parachute off** a plane.
5. During the break students **idle away** in groups in the courtyard.
6. Sergeants should **inculcate** new recruits **with** discipline.
7. All citizens have the right to vote **regardless of** ethnicity or creed.
8. Politicians' private lives are **under scrutiny** because the public want to know what kind of people they are.
9. Artists complain when the government **cuts back on** funding for the arts.
10. Some people say China will soon have the best cars on the market, but based on what I know about cars I wouldn't **bet on** it.

## Assimilation Stage

### A LITTLE REGULAR EXERCISE EXTENDS MEN'S LIVES

Fill in the blanks with a suitable word from the box. Use each once.

<b>regardless</b>	<b>moderate</b>	<b>range</b>	<b>expend</b>	<b>consume</b>	<b>odds</b>
<b>reveal</b>	<b>extend</b>	<b>confer</b>	<b>prescribe</b>	<b>prolong</b>	<b>brisk</b>

1. Even **moderate** smokers are at increased risk of contracting lung cancer, let alone heavy smokers.
2. After Bob's nervous breakdown, the doctor **prescribed** a series of medicines to calm his nerves and restore his mental balance.
3. John and Sarah's relationship had been going downhill lately, so they both decided not to **prolong** their misery and broke up.
4. Many men dream of owning a car such as a Ferrari or a Porsche that **confers** status on its owner.

5. The painting acquired immense value when it was **revealed** that it was painted by Van Gogh.
6. A careful, healthy lifestyle can **extend** your life by several years.
7. According to scientists, even a **brisk** walk can provide tangible benefits for your body and mind.
8. Gyms that offer a wide **range** of activities and services are very popular nowadays.
9. The effort and energy **expended** in trying to climb a mountain are quite considerable, and the body needs fluids to replenish them right afterwards.
10. Drivers who **consume** a large quantity of alcohol before they drive behave criminally because they knowingly put other people's life at unnecessary risk.
11. The **odds** of recovery from Alzheimer's disease are non-existent at present.
12. All citizens, **regardless** of race or creed, are entitled to freedom of speech and expression.

### REMEMBER WHAT WE OWE TO ARAB SCIENCE

*Fill in the blanks with a suitable word or phrase from the box. Use each once.*

<b>advent</b>	<b>fertile</b>	<b>timely</b>	<b>legacy</b>	<b>starkly</b>	<b>herald</b>
<b>fragment</b>	<b>heritage</b>	<b>account</b>	<b>rival</b>	<b>spark</b>	<b>breakthrough</b>

1. Religion and science used to be **rivals**, but in the Western world this conflict has long lost its edge.
2. One of the reasons why people who live in big cities feel alienated is that society has become **fragmented** and has lost its cohesion.
3. In the 1960s the emergence of the hippy movement was believed to be **heralding** a new era marked by peace, love, and freedom.
4. In New York City, suburban prosperity contrasts **starkly** with inner city squalor.
5. Monuments around the world should be carefully preserved as they are part of each country's national **heritage**.
6. The publication of Lady Chatterley's Lover **sparked** a wave of protests by moral and religious conservatives.
7. The burning hotel was evacuated and the fire was put out thanks to the **timely** intervention of the fire department.
8. Decadent and derelict as it was in the late 1970s, Manchester was **fertile** ground for the development of dark new wave music.
9. Forty eight years after his assassination, Martin Luther King's **legacy** lives on, as the dream of racial unity is closer to becoming a reality.
10. Much to the displeasure of the police, the two eyewitnesses' **accounts** of the accident differed greatly.
11. The deal struck by the two countries to share energy resources was seen as a major **breakthrough** in the effort to achieve peace and prosperity in the region.
12. The **advent** of airplane travel brought cultures closer together and gave fresh impetus to internationalism and cosmopolitanism.

## GAUDI MANIA

Fill in the blanks with a suitable word or phrase from the box. Use each once.

<b>ostentation</b>	<b>exuberant</b>	<b>ambivalent</b>	<b>exacerbate</b>	<b>intact</b>	<b>incline</b>
<b>ornate</b>	<b>superfluous</b>	<b>homage</b>	<b>commission</b>	<b>profusion</b>	<b>hail</b>

1. I feel **ambivalent** about the money made by Hollywood actors: they deserve it as they are talented, but it's a disgrace that doctors and professors earn less.
2. It's difficult for actors who play in Almodovar's movies to keep their self-esteem **intact** in the face of his criticism and demands.
3. Most modern buildings have no **superfluous** decoration. Everything in them serves a purpose.
4. Mediterranean people are inherently **exuberant** and show their feelings openly.
5. The rivalry between the two artists was **exacerbated** when they were both short-listed for the Oscar award.
6. The **ornate** interior of the magnificent palace impressed the visitors.
7. Advocates of functionalism usually shun **ostentation** because they believe in the elimination of non-essential elements.
8. Vangelis was **commissioned** to compose the music for the Sydney Olympic Games, which shows how much he is respected worldwide.
9. Leaders from all over the world attended Princess Diana's funeral to pay **homage** to her.
10. Barack Obama is **hailed** by many Americans as a new John Kennedy, and they are pinning their hopes on him to revive the country.
11. The Chinese language has a **profusion** of pictographs that correspond with individual words in Indo-European languages.
12. Few young people nowadays are **inclined** to write poetry, as literature has lost currency with the younger generation.

## LITERAL VS. METAPHORICAL USE

1. Study the sentences below where the words in **blue** are used literally.

1. Everyone in the room turned and  **bowed**  as the Queen of England made her entry.
2. He was rushed to hospital after going into cardiac arrest, but doctors could not  **revive**  him.
3. As a boy, Joe was quite  **robust**  and always looked the picture of health.
4. The city of Phoenix, Arizona was built on land that used to be  **barren**  desert.
5. After an arduous climb we were all relieved to reach the  **pinnacle**  of the mountain.
6. There was a nasty smell coming from the  **stagnant**  pond, and I didn't want to go near.

2. Now use words from above to complete the sentences below where the same words are used metaphorically.

1. I thought Tom and I could collaborate on that project, but after a rather **barren** and pointless discussion I changed my mind.
2. The Minister of Finance needs to come up with a sound plan to breathe new life into the **stagnant** economy.
3. Now that Izmir has become a popular holiday destination, the local economy is beginning to **revive**.
4. When President Kennedy was assassinated, he was at the **pinnacle** of his political career.
5. Much to the delight of the car companies that manufacture them, sales of SUVs have been quite **robust** this year.
6. After years of bitter quarreling, the couple **bowed** to the inevitable and decided to divorce.

### APPROPRIACY

Fill in the blanks with words or phrases from the box. For each word or phrase there is a synonym with the same meaning but a different level of formality. Pay attention to the context of each sentence.

expend	defeated	profusion	waste	top
pinnacle	reveal	divulge	plenty	beat

1. (Conversation between coach and players):  
"We lost away from home in the first round cause the ref was on their side, but this team we're gonna **beat** them no matter what."
2. (History textbook):  
The British navy, led by Admiral Nelson **defeated** the Spanish and French navy in the battle of Trafalgar in 1805.
3. (Conversation between two reporters):  
"I know you're dying to find out, but I kinda swore to keep it a secret so I can't really **reveal** my sources."
4. (CIA Handbook):  
Members of the Secret Service are not permitted to **divulge** confidential information to the press.
5. (Conversation between two tourists):  
"Barcelona is just awesome. There's **plenty** of amazing monuments to take in, man!"
6. (Ancient History textbook):  
The Hanging Gardens of Babylon, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, were renowned for having a **profusion** of wild flowers.
7. (Conversation between two friends):  
"I hired a cleaner because I don't wanna **waste** so much energy doing the housework."
8. (Biology textbook):  
Children **expend** a great deal more energy than adults and hence require more nourishment.
9. (Conversation between father and son):  
"If you want to reach the **top** of your profession, you need to stay one step ahead of everybody else, son."
10. (Magazine article referring to Vangelis):  
Vangelis reached the **pinnacle** of his career when he won an Oscar for the score of Chariots of Fire in 1984.

## SYNONYMS

Replace the word in **blue** in each sentence with the most appropriate word from the box. You may need to change the form of the word

tribute	redundant	disclose	regimen	protract
riveting	productive	inextinguishable	chances	vary

1. Renaissance scholars evinced an **unquenchable** desire to push the frontiers of knowledge. (**inextinguishable**)
2. There was a **prolonged** silence before the stunned interviewee managed to give an answer to the unexpected question. (**protracted**)
3. The reporter decided not to **reveal** his identity to the people he interviewed. (**disclose**)
4. The sculptor's mood **fluctuated** from one day to the next depending on what she was working on. (**varied**)
5. Salvador Dali is widely regarded as an artist who had a **fertile** imagination. (**productive**)
6. The **odds** of a French movie winning an Oscar are slim. (**chances**)
7. The discovery that her husband spent the night in a hotel with another woman was all she needed to file for divorce, and any explanation was **superfluous**. (**redundant**)
8. After his knee operation, the soccer player followed an exercise **program** to regain his form. (**regimen**)
9. In his speech the minister paid **homage** to the bravery and self-sacrifice of the people who laid down their lives for the sake of their country. (**tribute**)
10. Casablanca is a **gripping** movie that keeps the viewers' attention until the end. (**riveting**)

## OPPOSITES

Use the words in the box to rewrite these sentences so that they make sense.

indispensable	moderation	malnourished	stalemate	flop
sophisticated	flimsy	profusion	conceal	boo

Example: He is not afraid of danger, so he is regarded as a risk-taker.  
He is afraid of danger, **so he is regarded as a risk-avoider.**

1. The building withstood the earthquake because it was sturdy.  
The building collapsed during the earthquake because **it was flimsy.**
2. The novice painter made a crude drawing of the ship.  
The experienced painter **made a sophisticated drawing of the ship.**
3. Nearly everyone wants to see a movie that is a blockbuster.  
Nearly no one wants to see **a movie that is a flop.**
4. A writer who values spontaneity usually regards an outline as superfluous.  
A writer who values planning usually **regards an outline as indispensable.**